

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A fuel tank comprising:

a tank wall forming a tank body;

a support member formed within said tank body, the support member including tank partitions disposed; and

functional components which are integrally mounted with said support member inside said tank body;

a coupling member disposed in said tank body and extending in a longitudinal direction of said tank, and wherein said coupling member couples said tank partitions to each other;

wherein said support member is clamped in a vertical direction of the tank wall between upper and lower inner surfaces of the tank wall, and

the tank wall is formed by blow molding of a resin, so that the tank partition is clamped between opposite inner surfaces of said tank wall in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said tank body.

2 - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The fuel tank according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein an end portion of at least one of said tank partitions is inserted into a recess formed on said tank wall thereby to be clamped by said tank wall.

5. (Previously presented) The fuel tank according to claim 1, further comprising

a connecting unit which connects said functional component housed in said tank body to external through a connecting opening formed in said tank wall, said connecting unit including

an external unit having a lid which is thermal-welded to said tank wall to thereby close up said connecting opening, and an outside pipe which penetrates said lid and is connected to external, and

an internal unit having an inside pipe which is connected to said outside pipe, and an lifting mechanism which is attached to said support member and supports said inside pipe in a raiseable and lowerable manner.

6. (Original) The fuel tank according to claim 1, wherein said support member is a columnar module which is upstandingly disposed between upper and lower inner surfaces of said tank wall so as to enhance vertical rigidity of said fuel tank.

7. (Original) The fuel tank according to claim 6, wherein said columnar module is of cylindrical shape.

8. (Original) The fuel tank according to claim 1, wherein said support member has on at least one end thereof a slip-off prevention rib which is embedded in the inner surface of said tank wall to prevent said support member from slipping off from said inner surface of said tank wall.

9. (Original) The fuel tank according to claim 1, further comprising an extending tube in which wiring of said functional components is housed and which extends outside said tank body.

10. (Original) The fuel tank according to claim 1, further comprising an elastic member provided in said support member, wherein said elastic member urges the upper and lower inner surfaces of the tank wall in a vertical direction of said tank body through said support member.

11 – 15 (Canceled)

16. (New) A fuel tank comprising:

a tank wall forming a tank body;

a support member formed within said tank body; and

functional components which are integrally mounted with said support member inside said tank body;

wherein said support member is clamped in a vertical direction of the tank wall between upper and lower inner surfaces of the tank wall;

a connecting unit which connects said functional component housed in said tank body to external through a connecting opening formed in said tank wall, said connecting unit including

an external unit having a lid which is thermal-welded to said tank wall to thereby close up said connecting opening, and an outside pipe which penetrates said lid and is connected to external, and

an internal unit having an inside pipe which is connected to said outside pipe, and an lifting mechanism which is attached to said support member and supports said inside pipe in a raiseable and lowerable manner.

17. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 16, wherein the support member includes at least one tank partition disposed, and

the tank wall is formed by blow molding of a resin, so that the tank partition is clamped between opposite inner surfaces of said tank wall in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said tank body.

18. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 16, wherein said support member is a columnar module which is upstandingly disposed between upper and lower inner surfaces of said tank wall so as to enhance vertical rigidity of said fuel tank.

19. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 18, wherein said columnar module is of cylindrical shape.

20. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 16, wherein said support member has on at least one end thereof a slip-off prevention rib which is embedded in the inner surface of said tank wall to prevent said support member from slipping off from said inner surface of said tank wall.

21. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 16, further comprising an extending tube in which wiring of said functional components is housed and which extends outside said tank body.

22. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 16, further comprising an elastic member provided in said support member, wherein said elastic member urges the upper and lower inner surfaces of the tank wall in a vertical direction of said tank body through said support member.

23. (New) A fuel tank comprising:

a tank wall forming a tank body;

a support member formed within said tank body, the support member being a columnar module which is upstandingly disposed between upper and lower inner surfaces of said tank wall so as to enhance vertical rigidity of said fuel tank; and

functional components which are integrally mounted with said columnar module inside said tank body;

wherein said support member is clamped in a vertical direction of the tank wall between upper and lower inner surfaces of the tank wall.

24. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 23, wherein the support member includes at least one tank partition disposed, and

the tank wall is formed by blow molding of a resin, so that the tank partition is clamped between opposite inner surfaces of said tank wall in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said tank body.

25. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 23, wherein said columnar module is of cylindrical shape.

26. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 23, wherein said support member has on at least one end thereof a slip-off prevention rib which is embedded in the inner surface of said tank wall to prevent said support member from slipping off from said inner surface of said tank wall.

27. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 23, further comprising an extending tube in which wiring of said functional components is housed and which extends outside said tank body.

28. (New) The fuel tank according to claim 23, further comprising an elastic member provided in said support member, wherein said elastic member urges the upper and lower inner surfaces of the tank wall in a vertical direction of said tank body through said support member.